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SUBJECT: JANUARY 31 TAO PRESS BRIEFING: POSSIBLE VISIT OF
KMT OFFICIAL, TAIWAN TEXTBOOKS, CHARTER FLIGHTS AND
TOURISM, MEDIA CENSORSHIP AND EXCHANGE

Summary

11. Key points at the January 31 Taiwan Affairs Office
(TAO) press briefing were:

-- TAO spokesperson Yang Yi would not confirm a
possible visit by "President of the Legislative Yuan"
Wang Jin-pyng in connection with the establishment of
a national-level Taiwan Business Association.

-- Yang condemned changes to Taiwan textbooks and
removal of references to China in the Palace Museum as
"stunts" that go "against the will of the people."

-- The path of the Olympic torch will be announced in
April of this year.

-- The TAO denied restricting access to Taiwan
websites and hopes that the Taiwan authorities can
take real steps to promote cross-Straits news media
exchange.

-- Yang would not comment on reports of comments made
by Lee Teng-hui stating that he has not advocated
Taiwan independence.

-- Beijing supports the attendance of Taiwan
compatriots at the 2007 meetings of the Chinese
People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).
End Summary.

KMT Deputy Chairman Wang Jin-pyng to Mainland?

12. TAO spokesperson Yang Yi was asked multiple
questions at the January 31 TAO press briefing about
Kuomintang Vice Chairman Wang Jin-pyng's possible
visit to the Mainland in conjunction with
establishment of a national-level Taiwan Business
Association, including under what title Wang would
come and what topics would be discussed. Yang did not
confirm the visit and said news about the Association
would be released when preparations currently underway
are complete. Yang reiterated the Mainland's
consistent willingness to meet and discuss developing
cross-Straits relations and peaceful reunification with
any department or individual who accepts the One China
principle and the "1992 Consensus."

Taiwan Textbooks, Museum Changes Promote Independence

13. Yang said that the Taiwan authorities are trying to
turn Taiwan education into "Taiwan independence
ideological education" in reference to the recent

revisions of history texts which substitute "China" for "the Mainland." Yang noted the Taiwan public's fervent condemnation of this attempt, reiterating that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China and that no stunt of any kind by Taiwan independence forces can change this fact.

¶4. Yang also denounced as "against the will of the people" efforts of the Taiwan authorities to "remove China" from the Taipei Palace Museum by referring to cultural relics of the Ming and Qing dynasties as "artifacts from home and abroad."

Internet Censorship and News Media Cooperation

¶5. In a lengthy response to a question about Taiwan's "Mainland Affairs Commission" welcoming Xinhua News Agency and the People's Daily to open offices in Taiwan, Yang said that the Mainland has continuously encouraged news media cooperation between the two sides since opening up to Taiwan news agencies in ¶1993. It is the Taiwan authorities who have prevented such exchange and cooperation, said Yang. Yang voiced hopes that the Taiwan authorities can take real steps to promote cross-Straits news media exchange instead of "spouting empty words."

¶6. In response to a question about reports from Taiwan's "Mainland Affairs Committee" that some Taiwan websites that were previously inaccessible have been unblocked on the Mainland, Yang stated that the Mainland regulates the internet in accordance with laws and regulations to promote its orderly and healthy development. It does not have specific

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policies for certain websites, he stated.

2008 Olympics: Journalists, Tickets and the Torch

¶7. Yang repeated details of new regulations governing the interviews and travel permits of Taiwan journalists during the period leading up to and during the Olympics. The path of the Olympic torch will be announced in April of this year in accordance with the requirements of the International Olympic Committee, said Yang. On the question on how and when Taiwan residents can buy tickets for the 2008 Olympics, Yang replied only that Taiwan compatriots can consult the ticket-seller agents appointed by the China Olympic Committee.

Direct Charter Flights and Mainland Tourists

¶8. Responding to questions about demand for increasing Spring Festival charter flights and normal weekend charter flights, Yang said that China hopes Taiwan agrees to a moderate increase in Spring Festival charter flights and destinations. The total of 96 round-trip flights this year to six destinations is an increase of 24 over 2006. Yang pointed out that the Taiwan side has been reluctant to increase flight destinations. On the issue of normal weekend cross-Straits charter flights, Yang believes there are no technical obstacles, but gave no timeline for their operation to begin saying it depended on the discussion between both sides' private trade organizations.

¶9. When asked if there was progress in recent cross-Straits negotiations between Tourism Associations to allow Mainland tourists to travel to Taiwan Yang said this was the fourth round of discussions. Consensus

has been reached on many issues and China hopes for good news to be released soon, but Yang would not confirm a timetable for agreement.

Lee Teng-hui's Comments

¶10. Asked by a Taiwan reporter for comment on former "President" Lee Teng-hui's anti-independence comments in an interview, Yang said only that they are paying attention to the relevant reports. Lee reportedly clarified that he has never advocated "Taiwan Independence" nor is he the "Godfather of Taiwan Independence," adding that he no longer has any "government" identification and hopes to visit the Mainland.

Taiwan Attendance at CPPCC

¶11. The Mainland supports the request for the participation of Taiwan compatriots in the 2007 Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said Yang when asked for comment on reports that Taiwan citizens, including three businessmen from Dongguan, Guangdong Province and a famous Phoenix TV journalist, will face retribution from Taiwan authorities upon returning to Taiwan.

Crime-fighting Cooperation and Lee Han-yang Case

¶12. According to "incomplete statistics," the cross-Strait Red Cross Organization has carried out repatriation acts 286 times since the signing of the "Kinmen Agreement" (1990), repatriating 37,790 people between the two sides, Yang said. The Mainland has repatriated to Taiwan 266 suspects, fugitives and illegal border-crosser, including Lee Han-yang whose case was mentioned by a reporter.

Cross-Strait Trademark Cooperation

¶13. A reporter asked for comment about the recent 2007 cross-Strait Trademark Forum held in Taiwan and two recent trademark disputes involving "Ali" and "Sun Moon Lake." Yang responded that both sides had agreed to set up a mechanism for cooperation between related departments and to increase communication and exchanges to promote intellectual property rights. By order of the Trademark Assessment Committee, trademark

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registration was cancelled in both cases mentioned.

Consensus Sought on Sand Exports to Taiwan

¶14. Yang was asked to clarify the Mainland's natural sand export policy toward Taiwan in light of a recent notice by the Commerce and Customs Administration limiting exports starting March 1. Yang replied that despite natural sand scarcity, the Mainland will make all efforts to continue exporting to Taiwan and hopes Taiwan will take measures to support a cross-Strait non-governmental mechanism to reach consensus on this issue.

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